



Conducted by  
Helen Watts McKee

## The Home Department

### "Too Late"

The summer wind blew softly,  
Wide open stood the door  
To let the worn old body  
Pass through and out once more;  
For the soul had gone before it  
To find that distant bourne  
From which the weary traveler  
Need never more return.

The stalwart son stood gazing  
Upon the placid face,  
Which never more should greet him  
From its accustomed place.  
A tremor shook his body  
As a tree shakes in a gale,  
And 'neath the sun's deep bronzing  
His face was drawn and pale.

"What ailed you, dear, to shake so  
When you looked at father last?"  
Asked the good wife of her husband  
When the day was overpast.  
"His face was sweet and peaceful;  
He blest us ere he died;  
"We'd done our best—" "No more  
of that!"  
The farmer roughly cried.

"I thought of all the long, long days  
When we'd let him sit alone;  
Each of us silent to him—  
Yes, silent as a stone!  
Or talking to each other,  
Not caring if he heard,  
Or answering, if he spoke to us  
With a shortly-spoken word.

And thought of how he'd thank us  
For every little thing;  
If I gave a hand to help him,  
How his hand would clasp and  
cling!  
I'd give the farm—the orchard—  
The cows, the bees in hive,  
Yes, everything that we possess,  
If he were here, alive.

If I could only open  
The door and let him see  
The love my heart held for him—  
Could let him lean on me!  
He never murmured, truly;  
But now that he is gone,  
I see we let our father  
Pass down to death alone."  
—Margaret Vandergrift.

### A Knowledge of the Law

A great deal of advice is given to women as to what she should know; what studies to pursue; and what books she should read. But there is one subject that is seldom touched upon, and that is, the absolute need for every woman to know something of the laws of the state in which she lives, as regards her rights. For every woman, married or single, has some rights, which her brother man is bound to respect. Especially is this true of the married woman in regard to any properties she may have, the proceeds of her labor, and the ownership of anything she may have come into possession of by purchase or otherwise. Thousands of women, in addition to doing the housewife's work, caring for her family and keeping everything comfortable, are engaged in some kind of gainful occupation by which she earns more or less money, and this money is usually spent for the benefit of her family; if there is any surplus, it is handed over to the husband for safe-keeping or investment, and in many instances, it is thereafter so safely kept that the wife never sees it again. Not all husbands are honest with their wives, or families, and many of them live by the rule that "What's her'n is his'n," and never dreams of account-

ing to the wife for any money or property belongs to, by right, the care. The money or property is used according to his ideas, and not always wisely, for not all men are good managers. No matter who the property belongs to, by right, the husband uses it as he sees fit, and without any accounting to the wife, whether he gains or loses. In a great many instances, the wife finds herself beggared, no matter how much she may have believed was her own, by the unfortunate speculations or investments of the husband, and she knows nothing of where she stands legally. In many cases, if she only knew the law, she could either hold to her own, or recover at least part of his squanderings. So, you see, whether you want to vote or not, it is just as well (and better) to know whether you have any legal right to anything. Many women can trust to the honor of other men with far less danger of loss than if she trusts her own husband, in money matters.

### Washing Bed Clothes

If only our women would consent to use the washing machine, instead of breaking themselves down over the old washboard! But those who need the help the most are the ones generally who won't hear to machinery in the household. A good washing machine does not cost so very much, and those that must be run by hand power are not at all expensive. Where one can have electricity, or water power, or gas, the work is much easier done, and the machinery more expensive; but we can not all have these helps. Many cleanly-disposed women use dirty bedding simply because they can not wash the quilts and blankets, or afford to hire them done, and it seems they just have to put up with the dirt. But it is all wrong. A really good washing machine that will last for years, if given ordinary care and kept out of the weather, can be had for less than five dollars, and a good wringer that can be used as long as the machine, or repaired when worn out years hence, can be had for two to five dollars. With the machine and wringer, the men or boys of the family, or even the "hired man," can be set to work to rub and wring out the bedding before breakfast, or after supper. It really is not such a terrible task. The washing should be done in warm weather, and the quilts and comforts left on the line until quite dry, then beaten with willow switches to make them light and fluffy. Quilts and comforts can be cleaned in the old, old way by putting them in a tub of suds and setting the barefooted boys and girls to "treading" them, and the dirt will loosen and be pressed out by the dancing little feet. Another way was to put the quilt or comfort in a barrel with sufficient hot suds and use a "pounder" or pestle to beat the dirt out. The bed clothes should be kept clean and sweet for health's sake, and the women should have a washing machine and wringer with which to do the work. Nothing looks much more "frowzy" than a dirty bed.

### Insect Pests

The usual cry comes always with the spring house cleaning, for ways and means by which to rid the house of bugs of various kinds. There is nothing so good as perfect cleanliness; next to this is untiring vigilance. There are many preventive

measures, and many exterminators where the insects have become established; but the best of these is of no avail unless you use the first two. Right now is the time to begin the warfare on the bedroom pest. Go over everything in the way of furniture that will or may harbor them. A few may have lived over the winter—probably have, and these will begin the business of egg-laying just as soon as possible. So the sure way is to catch the first bugs and prevent the laying. Wash the bedsteads, filling every crack, crevice, or hole in the frame, whether it be of wood or iron. Softened soap, putty, or moistened plaster of paris are all good for this. Fill the hiding places first with a strong solution of carbolic acid, or with gasoline, or with strong, boiling hot alum water before stopping them with the soap, etc. If gasoline is used, there must be no fire or flame anywhere about the room, and the windows should be open. Go over everything in the room, cleaning and hatching up rough, splintery places, crevices, cracks or holes. If the plastering is broken, patch it with plaster of paris moistened with vinegar. Vinegar is better than water, as the putty does not set so quickly. Patch up every tiny hole. Especially do this about the door and window frames; pour boiling hot alum solution down behind the surbase and into cracks of the floor. If the bugs are, or have been, and seem likely to have quarters behind the wall paper, take a long, slim-spouted oil can and squirt the exterminator behind the paper wherever it is loose enough to afford a harbor, but in this case, the solution need not be so hot. Sun the bedding every day, and watch for the first comer. Look over the clothes and don't hang them on the suspected walls. Scald the floors with water in which carbolic acid crystals are dissolved. Make the war a regular siege; a war of extermination.

### "Constant Endeavor"

Don't flatter yourself that one cleaning will suffice where the bed-bug has become established. One of our readers says she has just moved into a house that is "literally alive" with the pests. If she likes the house and has the courage to stay in it, she can clean out the very strongest colony by persistence and thorough warfare, but it may require several months before she sees the last one go down. Usually, they are only in the rooms used for sleeping, but if very prolific they may swarm out into the other rooms. There should be as little household goods as possible stored in the rooms, and nothing should be hung against the walls. Nothing will starve them out—they will live when they are the merest shells, and can run about as fast as their fattest kin. A good embalming fluid is a good destructive agent, and there are many other fluids that can be used without spoiling the varnish much. Anyhow, the furniture can be varnished again after the enemy is driven away. Everything must give way until the place is freed. In some houses, they drop from the ceiling. They take the night time for this, generally, and if the paper is of a kind on which the brown things show, they can be gathered in by the use of a step-ladder, a pan with a little coal oil in it and a feather from the duster. Sweep the

thing off the paper with the feather, and let it drop into the oil. Its journey will be ended therefrom. Carpets should not be laid in rooms so infested, and all bed clothes should be hung in the air every day, looking the folds over well and killing every bug found—and you may find a lot in such places. They hide well. We give some exterminators which our sisters have sent in, but remember persistence and untiring zeal are the only real exterminators, and they may be aided greatly by some of these recommended helps. But the battle must be constantly renewed, even after you think you have seen the last of them. Begin the fighting right away, this month.

### Bug Exterminators

Dissolve five cents worth of camphor gum in a pint of gasoline, and thoroughly spray every place where the bugs can possibly hide, as well as the corners and depressions of the mattress. It will not hurt the bedding. Use it on the springs and bedsteads. No fire must be in the room, and the windows must be left open.—Mrs. V. G. P.

Two ounces of red arsenic, one-fourth pound of white soap, half an ounce of camphor gum dissolved in a teaspoonful of rectified spirits, made into a paste the consistency of cream. Put this mixture into openings and cracks of furniture where they hide.—L. L. M.

Wash all bedding as often as convenient; sun every day. Use a swab and lye on places not varnished, especially splintered or rough places. Paint the bedstead all over with varnish containing a lot of turpentine; or use the turpentine alone.—Iowan.

Liquids used plentifully and poured liberally into every crack or opening, or injected with a spring-bottom can or syringe, is about the only thing that will reach the egg chambers selected by the wary bed-bug. Coal oil, oil of cedar, gasoline, strong solutions of alum or salt water, corrosive sublimate and alcohol, embalming fluids, are all good. Fumigating with sulphur is only effective if thoroughly well done, and few women go about it right.—Mrs. M. Long.

For walls, fill every tiny hole or crack with a paste made of plaster of paris and vinegar. Paste cloth or paper over the filled hole or crack. If papering is to be done, put a cupful of household ammonia into the paste used, or stir in a pint of powdered alum to the painful.—"From Missouri."

Paint every thing paintable with a mixture of equal parts of carbolic acid and coal oil, using a brush and using the mixture freely. Have the doors and windows open while using it, or, better, take everything out of the house, as the fumes of the mixture will be sickening. Wash everything in the way of furniture with a solution of two tablespoonfuls of carbolic acid crystals to a half gallon of water. Oil of sassafras is fire.—Marion M.

### Putting Away the Furs and Woolens

We shall soon have had our quota of cold, and with the passing of the winter weather, will come the house cleaning and packing away of winter clothing. To keep moths from destroying garments, there are several successful methods, but the very safest is to be sure you do not put away the moth-eggs with the garment, or leave the slightest entry-way to the garment for the mother moth. In addition to this, here are some recommended preventives: Procure shavings of cedar wood and enclose in thin muslin bags, laying the shavings of camphor wood. Allspice berries sprinkled among the garments; seeds of the musk plant; a few drops of oil of cedar; sassafras root is also recommended scattered